SRINAGAR GUIDE

ILLUSTRATED

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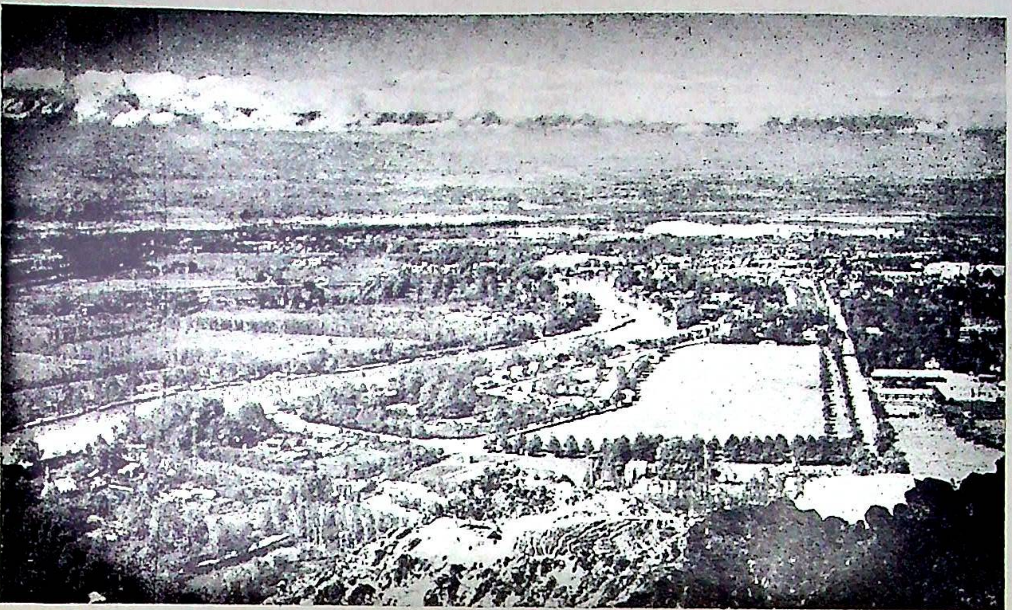
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PREFACE

There are numerous books on Kashmir representing it in different aspects. They contain discription, and that too in nutshell, of very few places worth a visit in Srinagar proper. But till now no proper and complete guide has been written on Srinagar. And it was due to this fact that thousands of visitors had to meet disappointment. To avoid disappointment this small hand guide of Srinagar has been written down.

It is hoped that the facts presented in a systematic manner free from exaggeration will meet the hard-felt necessity of the visitors. It contains what is known and ever more whatever is known about this picturesque city. Not even the least information has been neglected.

Publishers



Srinagar From Shankeracharya

Photo by Mahattas Ltd.

INTRODUCTION

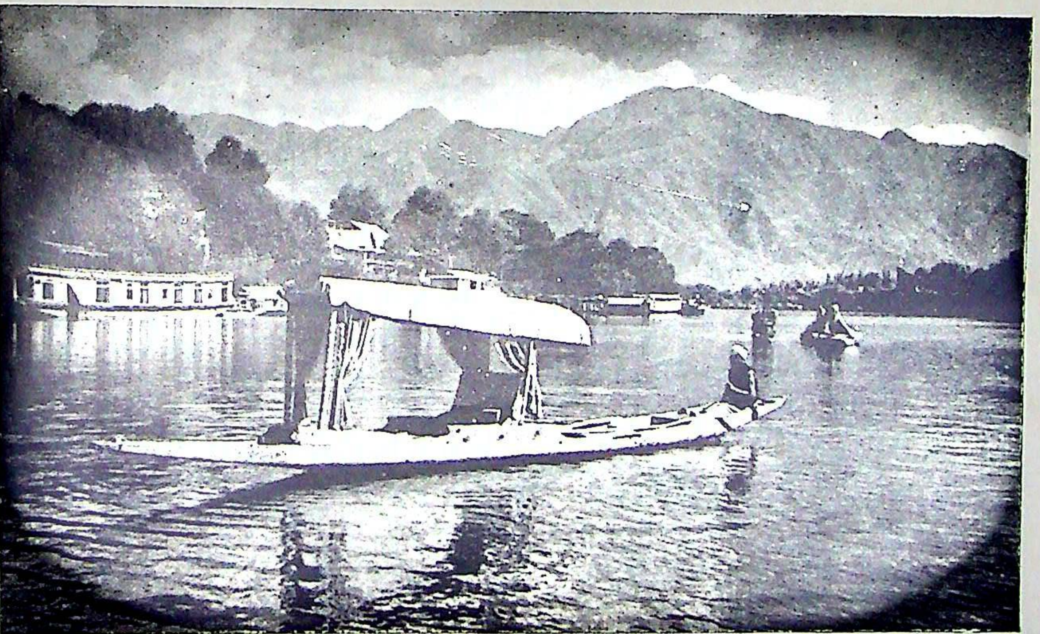
'Every turn reveals as the artist loves to depict'. Indeed does this city of 'Sri', the goddess of fortune, hide in its lovely atmosphere and pretty borders different specimens of God's handicrafts which it tries to reveal at different times in different seasons. Densely populated, as it is, boardering the serpenting holy 'Vitista', it still stands there—an embodiment of ancient glory. The calm Jhelum and its overhanging banks make the visitor dream of 'Venice' here in the East, amidst the fortification of the lofty and massive silver crowned mountains.

Srinagar is an attraction for all sorts of visitors. It can be as luxurious as the civilised world or as content as the far remote caves of the Himalayas. It can protect the healthy against diseases and still is a place for the invalids to regain health. Although most attractive and interesting for an artist it cannot command conditions for a sanatorium. But this deficiency is made up by the various health-restoring hill stations just on its suburbs. However one or so has been laid nearing the city as the demand for them is rising day by day.

It lies on trade routes to Gilgit and Ladakh, which further break into Central Asia. In spite of Industrial progress and development, Srinagar still nourishes its cottage industries and handicrafts which had their birth in the times immemorial and were fed with the evolution of time.

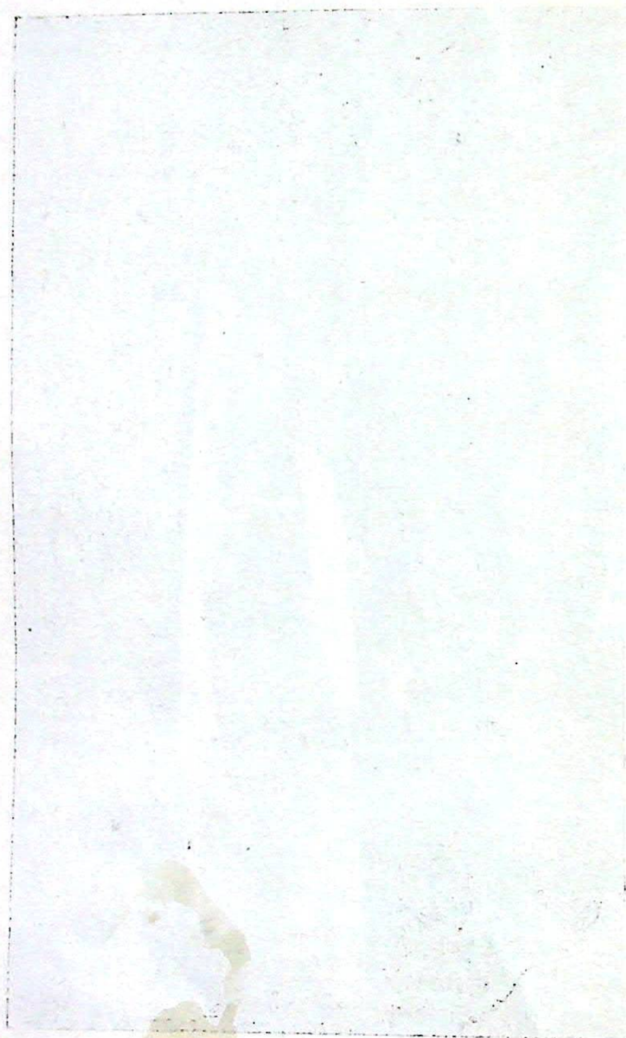
In order to enjoy a river view of the city and visit the marvels of skilled labour it is advisable for visitors to hire a shikara—the lightest craft on the river—which can be got near the first bridge, furnished with a jolly crew of four or six 'manjies'—the Kashmiri boatmen. These boatmen are quite aware of the places worth attention for the visitor. After paddling down under the props of the first bridge amidst the secretariat there is the golden temple—Gadhadar Mandhir—which bears the charm of sanctity. And leaving the first two bridges the boatman will never forget to divert the attention of the visitor towards the overhanging signboards of show rooms and work shops of 'Wood Carving,' Papier Machie, Fine Silver Work and other artistic curios, just adjacent to either extremity of the third bridge.. Across the cobbler stone road running parallel to the eastern bank of the Jhelum river there is situated a hand-made carpet factory within long narrow wooden barracks. Then onwards the visitor will come across the huge and glorious timber mosque—Shahi Hamdan and Pather Masjid, the ancient stone mosque, tomb of Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin and a galaxy of tin-plated temples up to the seventh, the last bridge. There ends the city of seven bridges and beyond that begins the rural area—lining the Jhelum valley road.

There are many other attractions and engagements for a visitor. The two big trade centres, *i.e.*, Amira Kadal and Maharaj Gunj, are famous markets with their respective trade systems of modern and ancient. The Gunj with its massive



Shikara in River

Photo by Mahattas Ltd.



area marked on all the four sides by two-storeyed buildings has shops of the brokers and commission agents within and without it and two big gates lead to its interior.

Amira Kadal is of a modern type and is more of a bazaar than a Mandi. Beyond it towards the east are the civil lines with the banks and agencies for kit and provisions.

A panoramic view of the city can be got from the top of the 'Shankracharya Hill' at the foot of which once there was a seat of King Solomon, now called 'Takht-i-Suleman', the hillock is situated at the end of the hotel road across the Drugjan bridge.

One gets a bird's eye view from the west, not only of Srinagar with its slanting roofed houses but also of the whole of the 'Eden of the East'. Turning to the east of the ancient stone temple at the top of the hill one catches at random the sight of the crystalline sheets of Dal Lake, helmed by the enchanting Moghul Gardens and the picturesque hoar walled 'Gulab Bhawan' palaces of the ruling prince of Kashmir. On the south of the temple one will catch a glimpse of Badami Bagh Cantonment—one of the lovliest of its kind on the surface of the earth.

Traces of ancient architecture and crafts—clues to many classical problems of History are well kept in the Museum on the left bund of the Jhelum river just at a furlong's distance from the first bridge.

Silk Factory situated at a distance of about one mile from the first bridge, contributed to the supply of parachute silk for the recent world war. A model of the factory is kept every year, to be exhibited in the State Exhibition, held in the colourful autumn.

However the bright sunshine and blue skies, the numerous small crafts passing to and fro and the atmosphere all tend the temptations of the visitors from all nooks and corners of the world to pour in teeming millions every year into it.

APPROACH

Two motorable roads, one from Rawalpindi called the *Jhelum Valley Road* and the other from Jammu called *Banihal Cart Road,* lead to the beautiful valley of Kashmir and Srinagar. Both are remarkable achievements of Engineering. Two hundred miles approximate distance by either routes is generally covered in 12 hours on the first and 24 hours on the second. These zigzag outcomes of human skill form one of the longest hill journeys of the world. During the ascending courses on both the roads staggering thoughts of chaos below in a moment vanish into the grandeur and sublimity around. It is long since when Kashmir attracted its primary visitors and patrons —the Moghuls. The present two roads did not exist then. They used to come across the Pir Panjal range over a height of eleven thousand feet from sea level. Nature's banquet is in its full swing on this route but it can be an entertainment only to adventurous climbers. There are other routes *via* Poonch and Jammu, etc., but they can only be trodden by ponies.

JHELUM VALLEY ROAD.

J. V. ROAD.

It begins at the end of the North Western Railway terminus of Rawalpindi, situated at a height of 1,725 feet above the sea level.

It is almost level for the first 17 miles when the ascend begins and ends at Murree. For these miles the automobiles have to meet peculiar zigzag bends and tiny tunnels amidst the lovely neighbourhood. From Murree the descend

begins and ends at Kohala twenty-nine miles ahead. And from there begins the territory of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur.

From Kohala bigger stages exist accomplished with Dak Bungalows, Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Rest Houses, etc. River Jhelum accompanies the road for the most of the course which adds to its beauty. The road runs through a poplar avenue from Baramulla which is said to be laid down by Queen Noor Jehan to whom the idea of the construction of the road, first, had struck.

While motoring along this route the visitor may for his assistance consult the following table:—

Name of the Stage.		Distance to Srinagar. Miles.	Height.	Remarks.
1. Rawalpindi	..	196	1,725′	P. O., T. O., Motor Agencies, etc.
2. Barako	..	183	1,940′	P.O., D.B., Bazar
3. Chattar	..	177	2,100′	Rest House.
4. Tret ..	..	171	3,300′	P.O., T.O., D.B.
5. Ghoragali	..	161	5,000′	Ditto.
6. Sunny Bank	..	159	6,500′	Ditto.
7. Chhikagali	..	154	6,500′	Ditto.
8. Bagla	..	149	5,500′	Ditto.
9. Phagwari	..	142	3,000′	Ditto.
10. Kohala	..	131	1,900′	Ditto.
11. Domel	..	111	2,230′	P.O., T.O., D.B. and Custom House. (Here toll is paid)
12. Ghari ..	..	97	2,630′	P.O., T. O., D.B.
13. Chinari	..	81	3,800′	Ditto.
14. Chakoti	..	76	3,780′	P. O., Rest House.
15. Uri ..	..	63	4,450′	P.O., T.O., D.B., Mohra Power House.
16. Rampur	..	50	4,900′	P.O., T.O., D.B.
17. Baramulla	..	34	5,182′	P.O., T.O., D.B. and Rest House.
18. Pattan	..	17	5,210′	P.O., T.O., D.B. and Rest House.
19. Srinagar	..		5,214′	

BANIHAL CART ROAD.

B. C. ROAD.

The picturesque route *via* Jammu runs throughout in the State territory. Since some recent years it has been opened to the public also. It is more dangerous and full of panic than the J. V. Road. From Udhampore the road commands a fine mountain view. The road reaches the Banihal Tunnel at 9,000 feet height from the sea level, after having passed through the big stages of Kud, Batote and Ramban, the tunnel is crossed. The descend begins and the paradise, veiled in a thin white muslin-like film of mist, is open to the visitor. After a descend of some twenty miles of zigzag path the visitor comes to Munda from whence the Kashmir valley begins. From here the road directly leads to the capital city—'Srinagar'. This road is throughout metalled save the portions of ascends and descends and runs by many stages, possessing hotels, Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses. Some information is given below:—

Name of the Stage.		Distance to Srinagar.	Height.	Remarks.
		Miles.		
1. Jammu	..	204	1,300′	P.O., T. O., D. B. etc.
2. Jhajjar	..	182	1,630′	Ditto.
3. Tikri ..	..	176½	2,455′	Inspection Shelter.
4. Udhampore	..	161	2,348′	P.O., T.O., D.B.
5. Dramthal	..	148½	3500′	P. O., Inspection Shelter.
6. Kud ..	.	137	5700′	P.O., T. O., D.B.

Name of the Stage.		Distance to Srinagar.	Height.	Remarks.
		Miles.		
7.	Batote ..	125½	5,116′	P. O. and Sanatorium.
8.	Ramban ..	108½	2,250′	P.O.. T.O., D.B.
9.	Ramsu ..	90	4,100′	Ditto.
10.	Banihal	84½	5,700′	P.O., T.O., D.B., Tunnel.
11.	Banihal Tunnel ..		9,000′	660 feet long.
12.	Munda Upper and Lower ..	56½	7,200′	Here road breaks for Verinag—the blue water lake with a Moghul Garden.
13.	Qazi Gund ..	45½	5,672′	P.O., T.O., D.B.
14.	Khanabal ..	33	5,236′	Ditto.
15.	Awantipore ..	18	5,225′	P. O. Old ruins of a Temple on the roadside.
16.	Srinagar ..		5,214′	

ABBOTTABAD-SRINAGAR ROUTE.

There is also a third route, which breaks from Havelian, a station at N.W.R. from where Srinagar is 169 miles. The road runs *via* Abbottabad, a hill station at a height of 4,010 feet from the sea level. At Domel, from whence Srinagar is 111 miles, it meets the Jhelum Valley Road. Following are the important stages on this route:—

Name of the Stage.		Distance.	Height.	Remarks.
		Miles.		
1.	Abbottabad ..	160	4,010′	P.O., T.O., D.B., Cantonment.
2.	Mansehra ..	144	3,550′	Ditto.
3.	Ghari Habibulla ..	125	2,655′	Ditto.
4.	Muzaffarabad ..	112		Ditto.
5.	Domel ..	111		Here the road meets with J. V. Road.

CLIMATE.

Srinagar is colourful almost in every part of the year and nourishes different sorts of visitors in them. The life is busy throughout the day as Mr. Wakefield has truly remarked, 'the days are usually taken up in eating and drinking, shopping and gossiping with.... wily merchants who daily infest one's boat.'

There are four distinct seasons in Srinagar namely—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Every season has got this engagement or that. The Spring and the Autumn are the best seasons for a visitor to stay here. In both the seasons the weather is almost the same, only that autumn is more sunny and bright than the spring. Early autumn reveals an artistic design of fading colours of the falling leaves and whithering flowers. The golden sunrise and the sunset over the running brooks in this season are those bits of natural beauty which have made the Emperors of India and the Naturalists of the world to imagine the paradise on earth—in beautiful vale of Kashmir.

The spring though a bit cold is green and fresh. A mixed colouring of white snow and thin green film of fresh verdure covering the lofty mountains seems to represent the smiles of Nature on its creation. The almond, pears and other fruit trees are in their full bloom. The city is lined with gay w::ving of these delicate flowers. This is the time for the bird immigrants to fly to it. The cold solitude of the winter is broken by these tiny minstrels. A month after, that is in the month of May, visitors begin to follow them in

large numbers. This season lasts for some three months; from April to June. The weather during these months is quite pleasant.

From July the sunny summer begins and the heat goes on increasing by and by till it becomes annoying for the visitor to live in the damp and humid atmosphere which prevails throughout the city in these months due to submerged rice fields and marshy grounds around. The temperature during these months may vary from 85° to 100.° It is advisable and they usually do so, to move to hill stations or begin camp life among the mountains some three or four thousand feet high from the valley. The summer ends in the month of September. The beginning of September is the time for visitors again to migrate to it. The autumn lasts for three months when there is the season for shopping and visiting the beautiful places in and about Srinagar.

With the beginning of December the snowy winter sets in. The temperature falls even to 15° and chill prevails over whole of the valley. Sometimes it happens that snow falls in Srinagar even in the month of November, although in a very small quantity, but the mountains get a heavy fall so much so that their peaks seem to be buried under the snow. The day is spent usually indoors in reading a book or just enjoying tit bit talks with the company of one's friends. But for the sport and spirited persons there are more lively engagements. Every year Ski-Club of Gulmarg opens in the frozen days of January and visitors move from Srinagar to Gulmarg and also the

other members of the plains move to this place to enjoy the winter sports including skating.

In this season the city remains muddy and the sky usually overcast. The cold gusts of wind pierce through and through even the marrow of one's bones and the frozen snow makes the whole city seem like a white marble. The Kashmiris are seen moving through the interior of the city, in spite of the bitter cold, up and down the streets with 'Kangries' (the willow woven fire pots) concealed in their 'Ferans' (long shirt-like garment) thus making it possible for themselves to continue their business even in these dreary days of cold. By the 15th of March the temperature gradually rises day by day and once again the city is decorated with the blossom like a bride by the mysterious hands of the Nature.

Precautions for the visitor while staying at Srinagar in different seasons:—

The weather in Spring being fickle and uncertain, the visitor is advised to be fully accomplished with almost every sort of clothes, warm and light. The desirable clothes can be prepared even in Srinagar.

Mosquitoes are very much annoying in summer, one has to pass sleepless nights, therefore mosquito nets are used for protection. Sun goggles are used for the protection of eyes from eyesore, and the goggles are most essential for glare, dust, sandstorm and snow. Autumn requires almost the same accomplishment as the spring. In winter sufficient provision must be left for warm clothes, waterproofs and rubber boots.

STAY.

No sooner does a visitor arrive here either by bus or a car than he is taken over by numberless agents of different hotels, houseboat agencies and houseboat men. The visitors will not feel it difficult to find accommodation, save in a few European hotels.

There are different kinds of accommodations available; hundreds of lovely capacious houseboats, well managed hotels and fine camping grounds and well furnished bungalows await for the visitors. Some ladies living in houseboats and bungalows receive paying guests. From the office of Visitors Bureau, just a few yards ahead of the Post Office, every sort of information can be got. The accommodation available, can be classified into three distinct heads :—

1. Hotels, Boarding House and Bungalows, 2. Houseboats. 3. Camps.

Hotels.—Their number is increasing day by day. They command nice sites and are cheaper and comfortable.

Nedou's Hotel is the biggest and the best in Srinagar. It is situated on the road just opposite Polo Ground, now called Hotel Road. It is some two furlongs from first bridge. It is nicely managed having a beautiful hall where musical concerts and other amusements are held. It has its own post office for the facility of the boarders. There is a tonga stand also. There are many other hotels such as :—

'Regina', 'Token', 'Lake View', 'Savoy',

'Park View', 'Kashmir View', Mount View', 'Golf View', 'Sam's', 'Snow View' and others.

For Indians alone there are also many hotels such as :—

'Madan's', 'Khalsa', 'Majestic', 'Bombay Guest House' and others.

There are boarding houses of Miss O'Conner, Mrs. Gatmall, Mrs. Keays Byrne and Mrs. Davis.

Houseboats.—This is a most fascinating and pleasant way of living and is liked by almost all the visitors, especially by those who are fond of fishing. These houseboats can be moored at different beautiful sites in the river Jhelum, Chinar Bagh and Gagribal. The ghat rent is different at different places, these rate lists and other information can be got from the office of Visitors Bureau.

Camps.—Camp life in Srinagar is not so charming as in the mountains. There are no good camping grounds in Srinagar itself but there are nice and delightful camping grounds at Nagin Bagh and Nasim Bagh, which are at a distance of 5 miles from Srinagar.

Camping requires the following outfits :—

Folding chair, cooking utensils, bathroom requisitions and camp bed, these all can be hired from any of the agencies. Small trunks with waterproof covers are very convenient for use. Generally visitors require camp kit when they go out for trekking or shooting, etc., otherwise camp life is not liked in Srinagar.

THINGS TO BE SEEN IN AND NEAR SRINAGAR.

The Moghul Gardens.

These glistering gems, embroidered on the lovely skirts of Zabervan and Mahadev mountains on the east, have mostly been the source of attraction to the visitors. Kashmir is highly indebted to these gardens which are overlooking the vast span of the Dal Lake. These are from 5 to 10 miles distance from Srinagar proper and can be reached by both land and lake. All the gardens are well kept since the time of their construction, *i.e.*, seventeenth century. At present they are under the direct control of the State Agriculture Department. Starting from 1st bridge or Post Office by land the visitor will first of all come to

Chashma Shahi.

This is called King's spring and is situated at the distance of 6 miles along the margin of the Dal Lake. The road breaks for it at the 6th mile to the right and ascend to the garden begins which is about half a mile through terraced orchards giving a lovely look in the days of blossom. The garden is enchanting but small and the high walls of masonry make it look still smaller, like other Moghul gardens it is constructed in terraces although in two. At the extreme edge of the upper terrace there is a small spring which oozes regularly its water through a stone pipe. The water possess highly digestive property. From it flows a stream which runs through the velvet lawns of the first terrace and then to lower one.



Nishat Bagh — Photo by Mahattas Ltd.

The fountains in the stream do play on every Sunday in summer months. Two buildings of Moghul time stand still there at the two edges of the upper terrace. An excellent site of the Dal Lake can be got from the lattices of the building overlooking lower terrace. It is well built after a plan by 'Shah-i-Jehan' the builder, in the year 1632, who usually used to have his day meals in this garden in sunny months of summer, whenever the royal family had the time to visit the beautiful valley. The golden sunrise and the red sunset are two remarkable times when the Dal exhibits a colourful scenery.

Camping is not allowed within 400 yards from the walls of the garden. There is constructed a lovely guest house just below it.

Some 440 yards towards the south is 'Chashma Sahibi'—another spring, but not well kept, its water possesses the same property as of 'Chashma Shahi.'

NISHAT BAGH.

This is called garden of happiness situated at a 1½ mile distance towards the north from Chashma Shahi. This is the biggest and the most popular of all Moghul gardens. It is constituted of 10 broad terraces with green verdured lawns and lovely flower beds. Huge branches of shady chinars form refreshing shades where the holiday-makers usually rest. A clear watercourse runs through its heart, forming pretty falls at the end of each terrace, cascades and fountains which are set at play on every Sunday in summer months, are two of the most remarkable features of the garden.

There is masonry rampart with towers on every corner, within which the paradise is concealed. There are some ancient buildings of the Moghul grandeur with massive cedar pillars and stone carvings. It was laid by Asaf Khan—the Moghul governor of Kashmir in 17th century. The uppermost terrace was reserved for the ladies of the court of Asaf Khan. Shah-i-Jehan wanted to get the garden into his own possession but through some circumstances the idea was given up. The upper and lowermost terraces command a panoramic view of the Dal Lake which is very charming at the time of sunset.

The garden is easily accessible. Every Sunday thousands of visitors come to enjoy the bliss of delight here.

Shalimar Garden.

This garden is called 'abode of love' and out of the hustle one comes to the calm solitude of Shalimar garden after covering a distance of about four miles towards the north from Nishat Bagh. This is lovelier but smaller than Nishat Bagh, situated at the end of old canal lined with chinar trees which lead to the Dal Lake.

It is laid in the same manner as Nishat but is constituted of only four terraces. The water-course here begins from a black marble pavilion at the fourth terrace. This watercourse runs further down to the first terrace through lovely cascades, fountains play in a square tank where the water is illuminated by beautiful colour electric lights on every Sunday. Here visitors stay till late

at night for the fountains remain playing till midnight due to the electricity. It is quite suitable for a picnic and banquet resort. There again the beautiful flower beds set in velvety turf of the lawns is remarkably beautiful. Greeen film of verdure sprinkled with prim roses, daisies and golden daffodills offer a lovely carpet for the holiday makers.

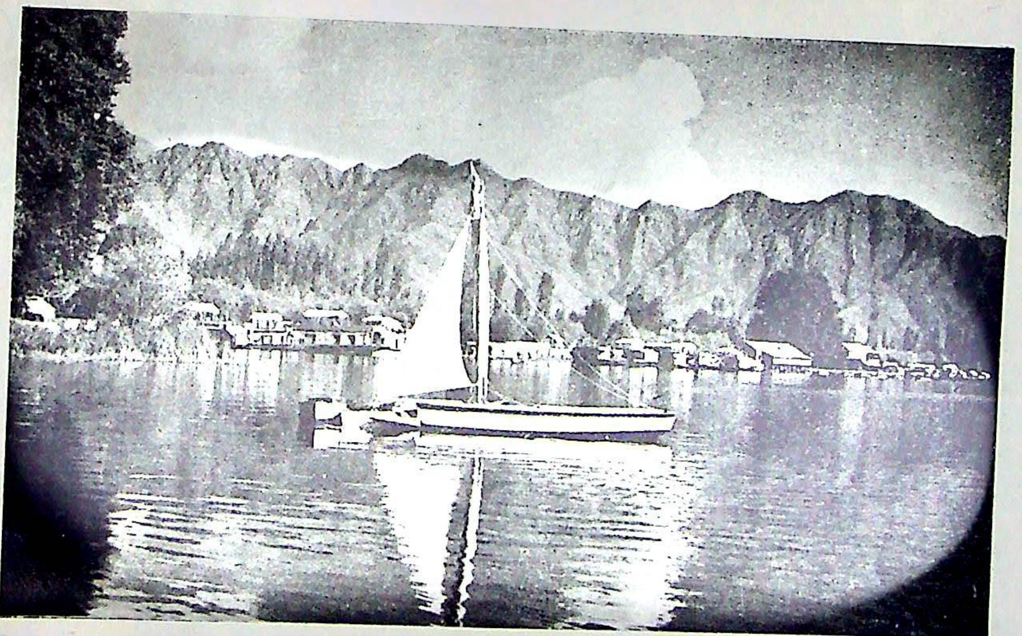
This garden was laid down by the great Moghul king 'Jehangir' for his lovely wife 'Noor-Jehan', in the year 1616. He used to spend his days of romance within its borders with Mount Mahadev, 19,000 feet high, filling the background of the garden. It is said to have been named after a spring—Shalimar, on the mountains behind no traces of which are now existing.

Nasim Bagh.

This garden which was the favourite resort of Akbar the Great, is situated at a distance of about five miles both by land and lake. The terraces and masonry work of Moghul time are extinct now. Only the big chinars with large trunks, conveying the message of their ancient glory and the stream running through the midst, do remain.

The cool shade of these chinars does really communicate the pleasure which Delhi monarchs would have been feeling and getting here, far from the burning heat of their capital.

The terrace slopes down towards the lake some forty feet and now is a healthy and favourite camping ground. Hundreds of camps are



Nagin Lake

Photo by Mahattas Ltd.

pitched every year under these chinars. Nearby is the great Muslim shrine of Hazratbal where thousands of Mohamedans gather on every Friday to offer their prayers. The banks are used as mooring ghats where house-boats are moored. The branches of the chinar are of bluish grey colour and possess good reflecting power of different colours.

SMALL GARDENS AND PARKS IN SRINAGAR.

Munshi Bagh.—It is situated at the distance of one mile from 1st bridge. Formerly it was opened for the camping but since 1931 permission is to be obtained from the Visitors Bureau. All Saints Church is located in this garden.

Sonwar Bagh.—A furlong above Munshi Bagh on the road to Achhabal, is situated this nice and well kept garden with soft velvet turf and gay flower beds. It is now a reserved garden of His Highness.

Chinar Bagh.—It is situated behind the Nedou's Hotel and adjacent to the Golf Grounds. It is the biggest camping ground in Srinagar. The banks are used for the mooring of the house-boats. The long trail of land shaded by massive chinars is lined by clear watercourse coming from the Dal Lake through Dal Darwaza.

Lal Mandi Garden.—Adjoining the Pratap Museum at the distance of a furlong from 1st bridge on the left bund of the Jhelum, it is one of the loveliest gardens of Srinagar.

Pratap Park.—Beginning from the 1st bridge runs in between two roads leading to the Civil Lines, ends just near the Regal Talkies. It remains crowded in mornings and evenings.

The Municipality Garden.—Extends from opposite of Hari Singh Zanana Park up to Shergari palaces on the other side. It is used for His Highness' private garden parties to his guests and State officials. A lovely square mound with chinars on its four corners, situated in the centre, is of a fine striking view.

Hari Singh Zanana Park.—It is reserved for women and situated just near the State Exhibition Ground.

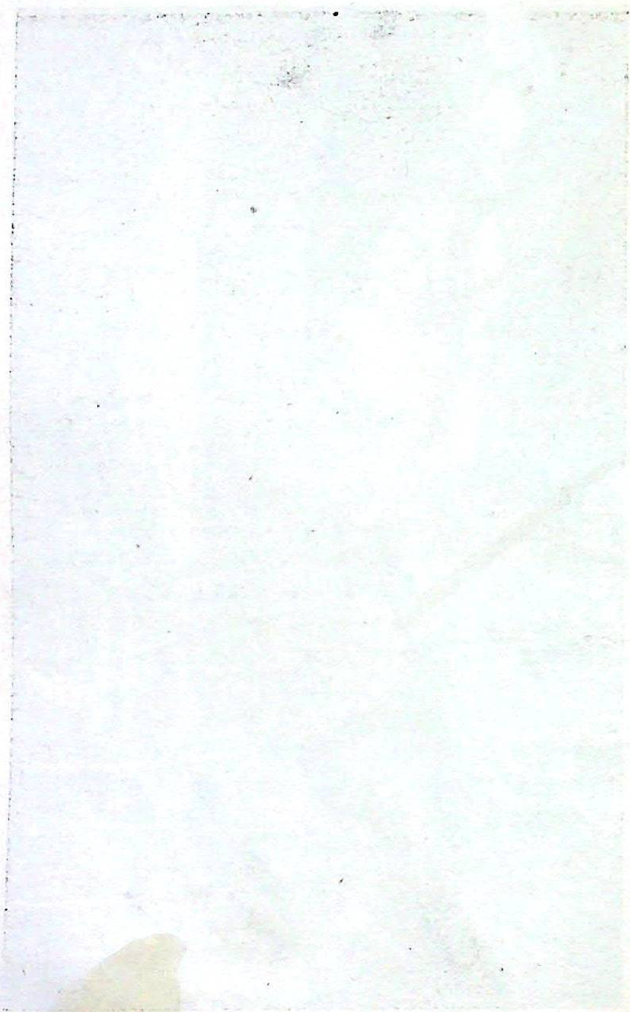
LAKES IN AND NEAR SRINAGAR.

Dal Lake.— The crystalline transparent sheets of the lake form one of the most beautiful neighbourhood to the city of Srinagar. It possesses a broad expanse of 5 miles within an amphitheatre of high snow-capped mountains and a margin of reeds and willows. The Moghul gardens bordering it have contributed much to its importance and charm. It is fed by the snow of the mountains surrounding it. Its water is sweet and clear so that the bottom though very deep is seen and also the fish darting through its layers.

The water is very shallow towards the north with a dense growth of willows and the stream Arrah fed by the snow of the mountains enters the lake on the same side. Here the water is of



Dal Lake — Photo by Mahattas Ltd.



broadest view with Shankaracharya hill on the opposite. On the west it is mainly marshy with beautiful hamlets. There is also an ancient causeway with small bridges beginning from Rainawari and ending at Nishat Garden.

There is a luxurious growth of aquatic plants and vegetables. These vegetables grow on the coral like floating fields which is one of the most striking attraction of the lake. The earth is spread on mats made of grass and the seed is sown on it. Water melons and many other vegetables grow on it. These fields are often stolen as they can be carried from place to place by tying them with a boat and this theft is very difficult to locate as these fields resemble each other to a large extent.

The Dal Lake is abundant in water flowers of different gay colours and the lotus may be indeed called their queen. This lovely flower is of two folded hand's dimensions. The pink petals of this flower open at sunrise in the shape of a cup and close at sunset. These flowers are adjusted in a lovely back ground of large circular pale green leaves. These leaves look very charming after a rain fall. The raindrops stand like pearls on them.

The Dal Lake is divided into two parts with the local names of Lokut Dal—(Small Dal) and Bod Dal—(Large Dal). The former extends between Nasim Bagh and Shalimar Bagh while the latter one is spread from Nishat Bagh to Gagribal. There are two pretty small islands situated in these two parts of the Dal Lake, called

'Sona Lank'—(Golden Isle) and 'Rupa Lank'—(Silver Isle). The Dal Gate checks the inrush of the Jhelum water in the days of flood, but when the level of Jhelum water exceeds that of the Dal Lake, the gate automatically gets locked up.

Wular Lake.—It is situated in the western corner of the valley at a distance of 22 miles from Srinagar. Being some 14 miles broad it is the largest fresh water lake in India. The seashore feeling is prevailing over the coast. The lake often gets furious and the boatmen rightly guess the time to cross it, generally they cross it in the early part of the day.

It is shapeless and at the banks the water is shallow but towards the hill of Baba Shukhur Din the water gets deeper and deeper. During the days of swelling the water even touches the neighbouring villages. It is fed by the water of river Jhelum, the outlet of which is at Sopore.

There is a peculiar bubbling spring on its North which is thought to be the abode of the king of the lake. Zain-ul-Abdin, the once ruler of Kashmir, has constructed an artificial island where temples and palaces were built, now only the ruins of which remain.

Two routes lead to this lake, one by land and the other by the river Jhelum. The latter one is more picturesque. Starting from Chattabal near the 7th bridge one will come across Shadipore and Sumbal, the two resorting places of the visitors. In between these two there are two more lakes one is 'Anchar' and the other 'Manasbal'.

Anchar Lake.—This shallow water lake is situated in the north of Srinagar at the distance of six miles. It is mostly marshy. It extends from some five miles with a lining of chestnut trees. There is abundance of fish and ducks. Nice shooting can be had here in winter. It can be reached either from Dal Lake by the Mar Canal or by the metalled road leading to the camping grounds of Ganderbal. There is a small group of mud huts of the fishermen in its eastern bank. Nearby is the village of Vicharnag where an old Hindu shrine exists.

Manasbal Lake.—This 'Supreme Gem of All Kashmir Lakes' with its circular dimensions and crystalline water lies within a fencing of high mountains, just near Ganderbal in the north of Srinagar. A small canal from Sumbal at six miles distance from Srinagar leads to it. The best time to pay a visit to this, is August, when the lovely lotus cover the miles of the lake. Near it lie the ruins of Darogah Garden of the time of Emperor Jahangir and in the valley a huge quantity of fossil limestone is excavated from the Kundbal hills.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN SRINAGAR.

Pandrathan.—At a distance of 4 miles from Srinagar lies the village of Pandrathan. It was once the capital city probably built by Asoka the Great. No traces of this ancient city are visible now except a well-preserved stone temple just on the roadside. This is a marvel of classics sculpture of tenth century A.D. It stands 17′ 6″ square in a stone tank.

Pari-Mahal.—It is situated at the distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Srinagar on the spur of the mountain opposite Chashma-Shahi. A road leads to it from the forest near Chashma-Shahi, Permission is to be got from the Controller, Shikarkhana, His Highness' Government, to enter it.

It was built by Dara, ill fated brother of Emperor Aurangzeb, for his tutor. Latter on it was used by his sister. It commands the entire view of the Dal Lake. Only the outer terraces of the massive building exist. The terraces, water reservoir and sideway stair-cases leading to the towers above lie in ruins. The lattices of the towers were used for astronomical observations by the Moghuls.

Pattan.—Recent excavations have revealed the ruins of two temples built by Shanker Verman and Sugand, his consort at Pattan. A nice stage on the J. V. Road 17 miles from Srinagar. The architecture though inferior to that of Martand, the greatest of all the monuments in Kashmir, is still in a good preserved condition.

Awantipore.—This ancient city, only a village now, is situated at some 18 miles distance from Srinagar on the road to Pahalgam. The two temples built by Avantiverman, have been excavated.

Harwan.—A Buddhist monastery dating from 300 A.D. has been recently excavated at Harwan eleven miles far from Srinagar towards the north east. A temple masonary tiles and a few tables are the main interest to be observed.

Tomb of Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin.—Situated between 4th and 5th bridge, is the ancient tomb with a fine masonary domes of blue bricks on the river side.

CHURCHES IN SRINAGAR.

There are two churches in Srinagar one is for protestants and the other for Roman Catholics.

All Saints Church.—It is situated in Munshi Bagh near Srinagar Club, with Shankaracharya hill in the back ground. It was built in the year 1896 by Mr. Nethersole the then Chief Engineer. The expenses are borne by the members of the congregation who elect every year members for the council chapliancy with the Resident in Kashmir, in the chair. The notices for the service times are pasted on notice boards of Srinagar Club and Nedou's Hotel.

Roman Catholic Church.—This church in the design of a cross, is situated on the hotel road a few yards from Nedou's Hotel. Its foundation was laid by Mr. Coinkerby in 1900 and was enlarged in 1928. It has got a presbytery, built with aids from the residents in 1931.

MOSQUES IN SRINAGAR.

Jamia Masjid.—This is the biggest of all the Muslim shrines in Kashmir. It is situated at a distance of 2 miles from 1st Bridge on the road to Ganderbal. Three hundred twentyseven pillars of Deodar, forty feet high, looking like stone pillars, support the roof of this mosque. A vast courtyard with the buildings on its four

sides, with a water tank in the centre is space enough to accommodate a huge number of Nimazies. It was originally built in the year 1388 by Sultan Sikandar Shah, in place of temple built by Taradiga in 693 A.D. A fire in 1462 destructed it but was built again in 1473. Then it caught two more fires and ultimately was built by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1665. It was repaired in 1916.

Shahi Hamdan.—This beautiful specimen of ancient Kashmiri wood work and carving stands close by the Jhelum just below 3rd bridge. It is throughout built of wooden slabs used as bricks with a pointed steeple. It was originally a temple dedicated to goddess 'Kalishewari', but was given the shape of the present mosque by Barkat Ali in the year 1731 and was named after a saint Shahi Hamdan, who was a syed and had fled from Persia to save himself from the wrath of Timur Shahi Lung. A spring dedicated to Goddess Kali and the holy walking stick are inside it. The latter is exhibited on rare occasions.

Makdum Sahib.—It is situated at three miles distance from 1st bridge on the southern slope of Hariparbat hillock a long staircase leads to it. It is dedicated to the great saint Makdum Sahib and here Kashmiris pray for the removal of calamities.

Hazrat Bal.—It is located just near Nasim Bagh about six miles from Srinagar. Every Friday thousands of Muslims gather here to perform Nimaz prayers especially in summer months, due to lovely row through Dal Lake. Here is

reserved a sacred hair of the Prophet brought by Kh. Noor-ud-Din in 700 A.D.

Pather Masjid.—This massive stone mosque with a big hall is situated near the forth bridge. It is under the public control. It was built in the seventeenth century by the order of 'Noorjehan'.

TEMPLES IN SRINAGAR.

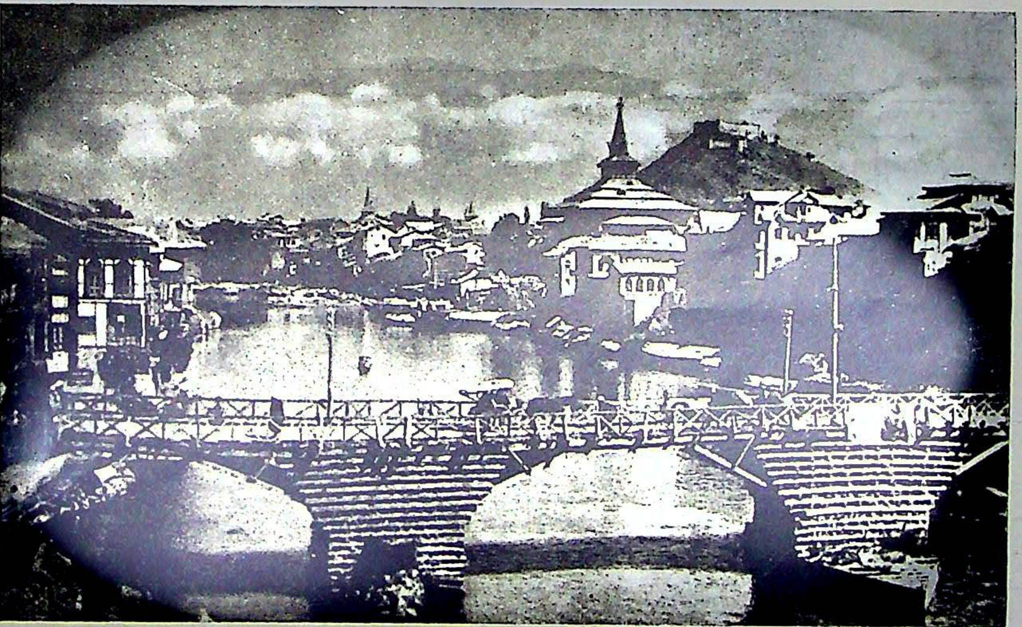
Here are large number of temples with tin plated pinnacles most of them built close by the river with stone staired ghats.

Golden Temple.—'Gadhadar' It is built on the left bank of the Jhelum overlooking its water near the Secretariat. It is a private temple of His Highness, and is a small lovely temple with golden roof. It looks very beautiful at sunrise when the early rays of the sun fall and are reflected on the golden plates.

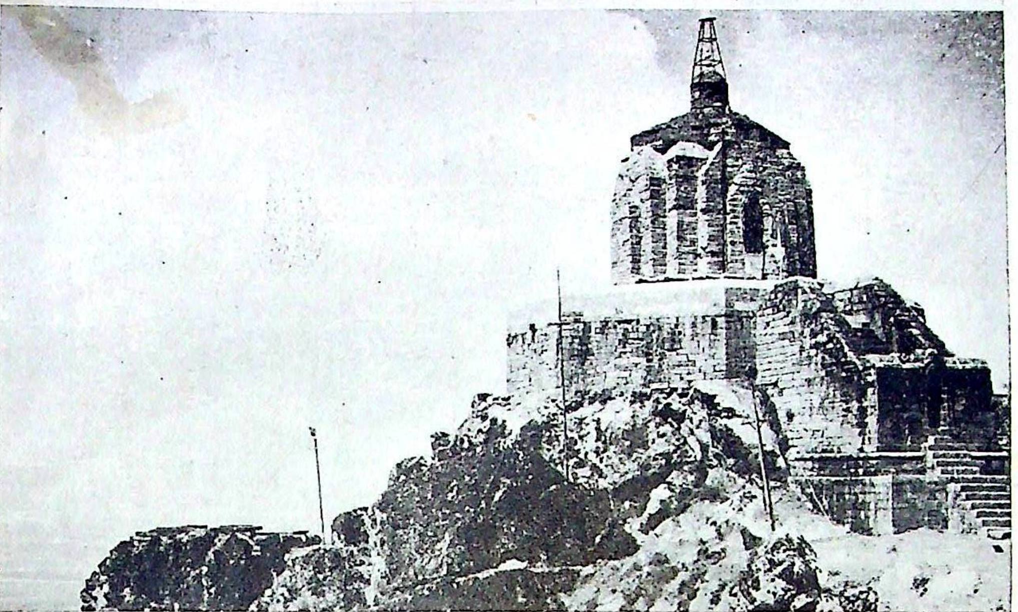
Rugh Nath Temple.—It is the biggest and loftiest temple in Srinagar located between 2nd and 3rd bridge. It is visible even from 1st bridge. It can be reached both by road and river. It is built on a square platform with four smaller temples on its four corners. There is also a hall meant for public meetings and religious discussions.

Ram Ji's Temple.—It is situated near the State Band Quarters, between, Babarshah bridge and Sri Pratap College. It is furnished with a beautiful garden and is under the control of 'Dharmarat'.

Durga Nag Temple.—Just at the foot of Shankaracharya Hill is this beautiful temple with



3rd Bridge **Photo by Mahattas Ltd.**



Shankeracharya

Photo by Mahattas Ltd.

a room under it on the bank of a small spring dedicated to goddess 'Durga'. Above it are a few caves. It is furnished with a garden also.

Hari Parbat Fort.—This is a beautiful fort on the top of the sacred hillock of Hari Parbat 500 feet high from the valley on the northern border of the city at a distance of 3 miles from 1st bridge. It was built by the Moghul Emperor, Akbar the great. Its area is marked by a huge rampart which fences the foot of the hillock. Two big gates and a series of small ones lead to its within. A group of state infantry lives in the fort now. The State Flag is raised at every sunrise and a gun is fired at noon.

In the interior of the fort is the idol of goddess 'Sharika' and thousands of Kashmiri Pandits daily go round the mountain and offer prayers. The best time to visit it is spring when the almond blossom at its foot is in its full swing. The stone-wall which is around the fort area is said to have been built for 12 years by twelve thousand labourers. Permission to enter the fort must be got from the authorities.

Shankaracharya Hill.—At the end of hotel road on the other edge of Drugjan bridge stands this lovely hillock in a conical shape with a stone temple on the top, dedicated to Lord 'Shiva' or 'Shanker' built firstly by Sandiman during 2629-2564 B.C.

The traces of the temple of the said date are extinct now. The present form of the temple dates from 365-246 B.C. when it was built by

Gopaditya, and later on it was repaired by Lalitaditya in 699-736 A.D.

It is a marvel of ancient sculpture of Kashmir. It commands the most beautiful and the pleasant view of the valley. It is accessible from all sides and every side is open and easily accessible to climb the hill except from the side which has been covered by the Kashmir Government for Rakh purposes. But the common way taken by all the climbers is from the temple of Durga Nag.

AMUSEMENTS IN SRINAGAR.

Srinagar Club.—The biggest of all the clubs is Srinagar Club. It is mainly meant for European visitors, and is situated near the Residency on the bank of river Jhelum. There are six tennis courts, assembly hall and a billiard room. The honorary secretary should be consulted for permanent or temporary membership.

Amar Singh Club.—This is very popular with the Indian visitors and is patronised by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur. It is situated near Munshi Bagh.

Harison Club.—This is a newly opened club situated behind Nedou's Hotel. It is open throughout the year.

Regal Talkies.—This cinema hall is situated at the beginning of the Civil Lines. Here only English pictures are exhibited throughout the season. A new building is constructed recently behind it, now known as 'Ameresh' where only Indian pictures are exhibited.

Palladium.—This cinema hall is meant for Indian movies only and stands at the cross roads of first bridge.

Golf Courses.—These are attached to Srinagar Club and are situated near Nedou's Hotel. It has got 18 holes. On the north across the bund is Chinar Bagh.

Swimming and Diving.—There are many house-boats with swimming, bathing and diving requisities set in at Gagribal and Nagin Bagh. Recognised places for bathing must be used for there are many places where there is danger for a swimmer to be got entangled in the aquatic plants and reeds. The agencies who arrange and entertain such amusements do carefully set and locate the places for bathing house-boats.

The State Exhibition.—It is held every year in the month of August. Art and crafts of Kashmir are displayed for sale and show. It is meant to encourage the craft of Kashmir. These crafts are grouped under different heads *i.e.* Wood Carving, Papier Machie, Turquoise, Embroidery and Agricultural products, Archaeology, History, Education, Silk and Jewellery, Etc. Many amusements are provided within the Exhibition ground.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SRINAGAR.

Amar Singh College.—It is situated at the distance of one mile from 1st bridge, at the end of Wazir Bagh. This is the only Government degree college in Kashmir with B.A. and M.A. classes.

Sri Pratap College.—Its huge buildings and hostel stand near Chinar Bagh. Formerly it was a degree college but recently has been separated and the degree classes have been shifted to Amar Singh College.

D. A. V. College.—It is a branch of D. A. V. College, Lahore and is situated at the bund.

Hindu College.—It is a private college, its expenditures are met partly by Kashmiri Pandits and partly by this Government. It is maintained in a small bungalow near Karan Nagar.

Technical Institute.—It is situated just a few steps above Amar Singh College. It is built as a memorial to late Sir Amar Singh. Here different handicrafts of Kashmir are being taught to the students. Training is also being given in Basket Making, Painting, Dyeing, Blacksmithy and Binding, etc.

Presentation Convent.—It is just opposite the Post Office across the river Jhelum. Here the girls of major age and the boys of minor age read. The building is remarkable and is under the efficient management and supervision of the Mother.

Besides the above there are many Government High Schools, aided High schools, large number of middle schools, primary schools and a Christian Missionary Society, aided by this Government.

HOSPITALS IN SRINAGAR

Sir Hari Singh Hospital.—It is situated on J. V. Road in Hadow's garden just near Karan

Nagar. This will be one of the biggest hospitals in Northern India. The foundation stone was laid by Lord Linlithgow and inauguration ceremony was performed by Lord-Wavell last year when he was on a visit to Kashmir. The patients are not shifted yet due to winter months.

Civil or Saddar Hospital.—It is situated on the left bank of the river just a little above from 1st bridge. This Government Hospital gives free treatment and diet to both male and female patients of all castes. It has got two wards for in-door patients of both the sexes. This will be removed to Sir Hari Singh Hospital in spring months, April or May this year.

Nursing Home.—Situated in the Pratap avenue in Civil Lines, is maintained on funds, fees and donations from the European residents and visitors. It is meant for Europeans only.

Mission Hospital.—It is situated at the north western foot of Shankaracharya Hill. It was founded in 1865 by Doctors Elmsie, Arthur Neve and Earnest Neve. In 1888 the hospital was rebuilt and the chapel of St. Luke was added to it. It provides treatment for about 50 thousand out-door patients and two thousand in-door patients annually.

Diamond Jubilee Zanana Hospital.—It is situated on the left bank of river Jhelum near 5th bridge. It was opened by His Highness' Government on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee for the welfare of the weaker sex. It is under the supervision of an efficient European Lady Doctor.

Leper Asylum.—It was founded by the mission surgeon in 1890. It possesses a beautiful but isolated situation in Nagin Bagh. Since 1926 it has been maintained by this Government.

Civil Veterinary Hospital.—The beautiful stone building of this hospital stands just a few yards down from State Telegraph Office. It is maintained by this Government and free treatment is provided to animals.

National Hospital.—It is a private hospital aided by this Government, near Karan Nagar. It is most facilitating for the public. It is well managed and supervised.

FACTORIES IN SRINAGAR

Silk Factory.—This is one of the biggest factories of its kind in the world. The fabric is of very fine quality and is exported all over the world. The silk worms are of the Bombaycidae and Saturnidae breed. It employes the labour of thousands of coolies. It is worth a visit and for permission the visitor must apply to the Director, Sericulture, at least three days before. The visiting hours are from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Karan Singh Woollen Mills.—This is the second big factory manufacturing woollen fabrics of a good quality. It is situated near Sir Hari Singh Hospital.

Hadow's Carpet Factory.—Established by C. M. Hadow in 1888 and is situated on the south of the city. It manufactures Indo-Persian Carpets of a very high quality.

Kailas Carpet Co.—It is near the premises of Karan Singh Woollen Mills and can be reached by car or tonga. The carpets of fine quality are manufactured here.

LIBRARIES IN SRINAGAR.

Pratap Public Library.—This is the biggest Government Library in the city. No lending charges are realised by the members who are mainly state officials. It is furnished with a reading room open to all. It has got a large number of books on different literatures.

Srinagar Club Library.—It contains a good number of books on various subjects, but is meant only for its members. Visitors are not much benefited by this library.

Rainas' Library or Lending Bookstall.—It is owned by 'Rainas News Agency' the prominent and leading Booksellers, Stationers and Pioneer News Agency. It is situated between the two roads the Residency and the Bund, just below Post Office and a little above Lloyds Bank.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gulab Bhawan Palaces.—Here the ruling prince resides for summer months . It is situated at the distance of two miles from Dal Gate overlooking the Dal Lake. It is a grand specimen of modern architecture. There is also a rest house at 'Kotar Khan' amidst the crystalline water of Dal Lake built by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur. A growth of lotuses of foreign family has been made to surround it. Inside the fencing white marbles have been laid to form a silvery

bottom which gives a grand reflection of moon-beams.

Secretariat.—Better known as Sherghari palaces. These gigantic buildings with lofty pillars, high walls and bright pinnacles stand just near the first bridge close upon the left bank of the Jhelum. Formerly they were the palaces of the ruling princes, but now they accommodate the Secretariat of Kashmir Government. Just a bit downwards stands the beautiful mansion built by late Raja Sir Amar Singh, father of the present Maharaja.

Pratap Museum.—Just adjacent to Pratap Library. Here are preserved excavated idols, bricks, carved stones and images. Many wild birds and animals, most of them shot and presented by Sir Amar Singh to the Museum have also been preserved in one of the rooms. It consists of many portraits of the rulers, old weapons and relics, etc.

State Granaries.—These wooden granaries are built by the Government to store food grains especially 'Shali' for the public. This system has been adopted to check the monopoly of profiteers.

Chattabal Weir.—Unique of its kind in Srinagar. It is built on the river Jhelum below 7th bridge in the year 1915. It is meant to raise the level of the water in winter when the river gets shallow. In the rainy season the level is lowered to check the overflow of the water. The length of the weir is 453 feet. It can be reached both by river and road.

Badami Bagh Cantonment.—It is at the distance of 4 miles from 1st bridge on the road to Pahalgam. This is one of the loveliest of its kind in the world. Here stays the State Infantry for summer.

Central Jail.—At the foot of Hari Parbat fort stand the buildings of this jail marked by lofty masonary ramparts. Permission to visit it must be got from the Chief Medical Officer. Close to it is the lunatic asylum.

Aerodrome.—It is at a distance of 8 miles at the top of Damodar Plateau. It is built by His Highness for his personal use.

Winding Vitista-—(River Jhelum).—Observing changes, which its overhanging banks have undergone, yet indifferent towards them, the Jhelum goes on and flows with its full velocity, the greatest waterway.

Emerging from the lovely spring of Verinag, which is believed to be its source, it reaches the capital city after moving through the town of Anantnag. It runs through the middle of the city dividing it in two and lovely bridges are built over it to connect them. These bridges bear the local names *viz.*, 'Amira Kadal' (built by Amir Khan) 'Haba Kadal' (built by Habib Khan) 'Fateh Kadal' (built by Fateh Khan) 'Zaina Kadal' (built by Zain-ul-Abdin) 'Ali Kadal' (built by Ali Khan) 'Nawa Kadal' (New bridge) 'Safa Kadal' (built by Saif-ud-Din), but to the visitor they are known by their serial order as first bridge, Second bridge, third bridge and so on,

Some of the bridges have been reconstructed. Down the seventh bridge is well-known Chattabal Weir built over it.

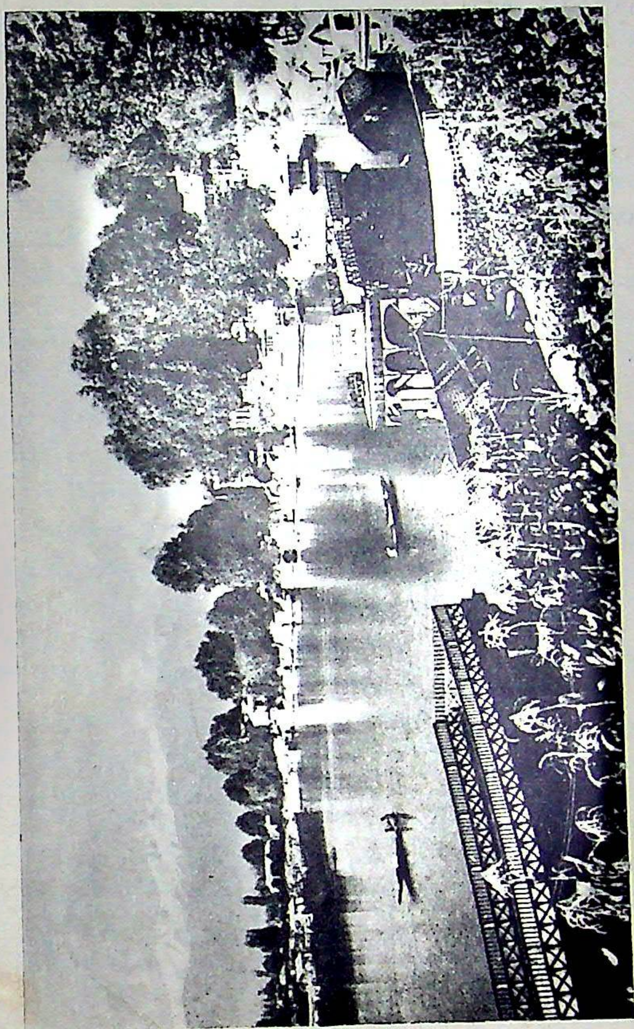
The river within these seven bridges and miles below is the cheapest transport system for public trade. Numerous 'Shikaras' the gondolas of the east, long narrow flat bottomed corner shaped boats are always seen moving up and down the river.

Khachoos—these are a bit heavier boats without roofs and are meant for carrying heavy loads.

Bhachies—and Dongas—these are crude forms of house-boats and are residential quarters of boatmen with their families. The river provides a pleasant atmosphere for those who live in boats.

The Bund.—One of the most attractive and beautiful features on the Jhelum and the modern centre of business in Srinagar. It begins from the first bridge and lines the river for about four miles towards Sonawar Bagh.

The massive buildings with big shops displaying Kashmir Crafts, Provisions, Books and Magazines and News for sale and photographic articles, etc., stand on it. The visitor can have pleasant morning and evening walks on it. It is very facinating and picturesque to mark the winding river with lovely bunds and lofty mountains in the background. Important business concerns and Government Departments are all located either on bund or in a neighbourhood of



Bund Srinagar

Photo by Mahattas Ltd;

it, such as ,Residency Office, Visitors Bureau, Lloyds Bank, Imperial Bank, shops of Books, News, provisions, wines and photographic articles.

SHORT TRIPS FROM SRINAGAR.

Pampur.—It is very pleasant to have an excursion to this lovely village which is situated at the distance of 8 miles from Srinagar on the road to Pahalgam. The outing must be done in the month of October when the saffron flowers are in full bloom. There are good camping grounds below it.

Ganderbal.—This beautiful village is located on the river Sind 12 miles from Srinagar. It can be reached by three routes.—

(1) By Motor Road, (2) Via Mar Canal, (3) Via Shadipore through the Jhelum. Ganderbal provides good camping ground and comfortable mooring sites. The landscape is full of beauteous scenery. There is a Post and Telegraph Office.

From here three miles further is the most sacred shrine of Kashmiri Pandits—Khir Bhawani. Here is a small temple built in a small spring round which there is iron fencing and a paved courtyard shaded by big chinars. Here thousands of Hindus assemble to offer prayers and have Darshan of the water of the spring which changes its colours into green, blue red and black.

Srinagar Municipality Tonga Fare Rates:—

	Rate of Fares.								
	1st Class.			2nd Class.			3rd Class.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
First Hour	0	14	0	0	11	0	0	8	0
Subsequent Hour	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	6	0
Half an hour	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	4	0
Full Day of 9 Hours	5	0	0	3	8	0	2	8	0
Half Day of 5 Hours	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	8	0
Chashma Shahi & Back ..	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	8	0
Nishat Bagh & Back	3	0	0	3	0	0	1	8	0
Shalimar Bagh & Back	4	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0
Harwan & Back	4	8	0	4	0	0	3	0	0
Nasim Bagh & Back	3	0	0	2	8	0			
Nagin Bagh, Hazratbal & Back ..	2	8	0	2	0	0			
All the four Gardens— Chashma Shahi—Nishat—Shalimar & Harwan & Back 9 hours ..	6	0	0	5	0	0			
Gupkar, Gagribal Point & Back ..	1	0	0	0	12	0			
From one station to another of the following stations Jamalattu, Chhatabal, Zaina Kadal, Maharaj Gunj, Amira Kadal, Badami Bagh And Nedou's Hotel	0	2	0	0	2	0			

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